



Data Dictionary for Childcare.gov (version 1.0)

The 2014 reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) calls for the development of a national child care website (childcare.gov) to disseminate family-friendly, publicly available child care consumer education information for parents, providers, and the general public to help families access safe, high-quality child care services in their communities.

Childcare.gov will rely on data provided by State and Territory CCDBG grantees and partner agencies. This document provides a high-level overview of the data elements that childcare.gov will draw from state- and territory-level data systems to support families in their search for child care. This document can help States and Territories identify data elements that can be shared with childcare.gov and compile the resource information required by CCDBG for state child care websites. By aligning data element definitions, State and Territory consumer education websites will also increase access to their websites through childcare.gov. Additional details on each data element are provided in the Technical Bulletin for Childcare.gov (version 1.0) (<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/childcaregov-project#step2>).

Selection of the data elements outlined in this document was informed by the National Data Set for Early Learning and School Age Programs, the Common Education Data Standards, and data standards developed by child care resource and referral networks, as well as data collected by the childcare.gov project team during a State and Territory capacity assessment and the childcare.gov validation and pilot process. The childcare.gov team will continue to make modifications to the data elements based on additional input received throughout the development process and will post revised versions of the Data Dictionary and Technical Bulletin on the Child Care Technical Assistance (CCTA) resource page for childcare.gov (<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/childcaregov-project>).

Though the childcare.gov team found significant similarities in the types of data elements that are publicly reported in State and Territory child care search tools, data definitions and standards for data elements required by the 2014 CCDBG reauthorization vary across States. Moreover, the data within a State or Territory are often managed within multiple early childhood data systems that may each have different data definitions and standards, including child care subsidy systems, child care resource and referral data systems, child care licensing data systems, quality rating systems, and systems used to manage school-based early childhood programs.

The information contained in this overview and in the Technical Bulletin will support the early development of common data elements and thereby reduce potential development costs for State and Territory consumer education websites. Use of these documents will also help increase the accuracy of those websites for childcare.gov users.

What Can Your State or Territory Do Next?

Your State or Territory can use this document and the Technical Bulletin to do the following:

- Inform existing or planned data system enhancements and look for opportunities to align data elements with the guidance provided.
- Inform efforts to enhance your State or Territory's child care search engine by identifying possible new data elements.
- Inform efforts to expand the types of providers included in your State or Territory's child care search tool to support the development of common data standards across multiple early childhood data systems.
- Identify how well the data element values map to the data elements in your State or Territory's child care search tool.
- Provide input and recommendations for future versions of the childcare.gov Data Dictionary. Please send any comments to askchildcaregov@icf.com.

Overview of Data Elements

The following tables include each of the data elements that have been incorporated into the design for childcare.gov, along with a high-level definition and the priority level of each element. Data elements labeled as “required” are the minimum data elements that are required for a successful connection with childcare.gov. Data elements labeled as “needed” are elements that States and Territories are strongly encouraged to submit, when available, to improve the information available to families. Data elements labeled as “desired” are elements that States may want to consider collecting and sharing with childcare.gov in the future.

States and Territories are encouraged to share with childcare.gov the same data that they already make publicly available through their existing search tools. In some instances, States and Territories may not be able to share data because the data are not collected at all or present quality concerns. In other instances, child care providers may have some control over the data that are publicly reported, and, as a result, may not supply certain data points or allow them to be made public. For example, family child care providers may not want street addresses published online, or a provider may choose not to have tuition data published. States and Territories can share with childcare.gov what is made public through their websites and childcare.gov will dynamically display those data elements.

If You Have Questions

Please visit the CCTA childcare.gov resource page (<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/childcaregov-project>) to learn more and access other materials on childcare.gov. If you have questions, email askchildcaregov@icf.com.

Table 1. Overview of Data Elements: General Program and Contact Information

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
1. Unique Program ID	Unique identifier given to a child care program maintained by the regulatory agency or partner agency.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Required
2. Program Name	Name of the facility as provided by the regulatory agency or partner agency. For family child care programs that do not have a “doing business as” name, enter the first and last names if the program allows the name to be made publicly available.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Required
3. Program Address Street Number	Street number for the location of the facility as provided by the regulatory agency or partner agency.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Required
4. Program Address Street Name	Street address for the location of the facility as provided by the regulatory agency or partner agency.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Required
5. Program City	City or town in which the facility is located.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Required
6. Program State	State in which the facility is located.	Use the 2-digit FIPS numeric state code available at https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/ansi_statetables.html	Required
7. Program Zip Code	Zip code in which the facility is located.	Use the 5-digit FIPS postal code available at https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/ansi_statetables.html	Required
8. Program County	County in which the facility is located.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Needed
9. Program Website Link	URL for the website created by the child care facility as provided by the regulatory agency or partner agency.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Needed
10. Program Email	Email address that a parent would use to contact the program.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Needed

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
11. Program Phone Number	Phone number that a parent would call to reach the program.	Numeric	Required
12. Program Phone Number Extension	Phone extension that a parent would call to reach the program.	Numeric	Needed
13. Program Licensed Capacity – Infant	The total number of children for which the facility is legally allowed to provide care, based on the State's definition of infant.	Numeric	Desired
14. Program Licensed Capacity – Toddler	The total number of children for which the facility is legally allowed to provide care, based on the State's definition of toddler.	Numeric	Desired
15. Program Licensed Capacity – Preschool	The total number of children for which the facility is legally allowed to provide care, based on the State's definition of preschool age.	Numeric	Desired
16. Program Licensed Capacity – School Age	The total number of children for which the facility is legally allowed to provide care, based on the State's definition of school age.	Numeric	Desired
17. Program Licensed Capacity – Total	The total number of children for which the facility is legally allowed to provide care.	Numeric	Required
18. Ages Licensed to Serve	Indicator of the age group(s) for which the program is legally able to provide care.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=Infant 2=Toddler 3=Preschool 4=School age	Required
19. Program/ Facility Type	Indicator of the type of facility in which the child care program is located. Identifies whether a child care program is in a commercial setting or a home setting.	Select one of the following values: 1=Center-based care 2=Family child care 3=Group care	Required

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
20. License Type	General category that identifies how the program is regulated by a state agency or partner agency. <i>Licensed</i> programs are regulated or certified by a state licensing agency. <i>Registered</i> programs are required to register with a state agency or partner agency. <i>Exempt</i> programs can legally operate without being licensed or registered.	Select one of the following values: 1=Licensed 2=Registered 3=License exempt	Required
21. Licensing Inspection Reports Links	URL link to state licensing inspection reports on the child care program. One of three types of URL links can be submitted: (1) direct link to program-specific report, (2) link to program profile that includes direct link to program-specific report, or (3) link to child care licensing search tool.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Needed
22. Licensing Complaints Links	URL link to state licensing complaint reports on the child care program. One of three types of URL links can be submitted: (1) direct link to program-specific report, (2) link to program profile that includes direct link to program-specific report, or (3) link to child care licensing search tool.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Needed
23. Licensing Enforcement Actions Links	URL link to state licensing enforcement action reports on the child care program. One of three types of URL links can be submitted: (1) direct link to program-specific report, (2) link to program profile that includes direct link to program-specific report, or (3) link to child care licensing search tool.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Needed

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
24. License Number	License number for each program that is licensed by the State. If the program is exempt from licensing, the data element should be left blank.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Required
25. Program Social Media Link – Twitter	URL link to the program's existing Twitter page as provided by the regulatory agency or partner agency.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Desired
26. Program Social Media Link – Facebook	URL link to the program's existing Facebook page as provided by the regulatory agency or partner agency.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Desired
27. Program Social Media Link – Instagram	URL link to the program's existing Instagram page as provided by the regulatory agency or partner agency.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Desired
28. Program Social Media Link – YouTube	URL link to the program's existing YouTube page as provided by the regulatory agency or partner agency.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Desired

Table 2. Overview of Data Elements: Information on Quality Ratings

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
29. Quality Rating	A rating from the state or local quality rating and improvement system.	Select one of the following values: 1=QRIS level 1 2=QRIS level 2 3=QRIS level 3 4=QRIS level 4 5=QRIS level 5 6=QRIS level 6 991=Participating but not rated 992=Not participating but eligible 993=Not eligible to participate	Needed

Table 3. Overview of Data Elements: Information on Program Features

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
30. Participation in Local, State, or Federal Programs	General category for the types of state and federal programs (including child care subsidy programs) in which the child care program participates.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=Participates in Head Start 2=Participates in state preschool program 3=Accepts state-funded child care assistance; e.g., contracts, vouchers, scholarships 4=Accepts private scholarships; e.g., United Way scholarships	Needed
31. Languages Spoken by Staff	Languages spoken by the child care facility staff.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=English 2=American Sign Language 3=Arabic 4=Armenian 5=Chinese 6=French 7=French Creole 8=German 9=Greek 10=Gujarat 11=Hebrew 12=Hindi 13=Hmong 14=Hungarian 15=Italian 16=Japanese 17=Korean 18=Laotian 19=Mon-Khmer, Cambodian 20=Navajo 21=Persian 22=Polish 23=Portuguese 24=Russian 25=Scandinavian languages 26=Serbo-Croatian 27=Spanish 28=Tagalog	Needed

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
		29=Thai 30=Urdu 31=Vietnamese 32=Yiddish	
32. Curriculum Used	Type of curriculum the program uses.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Desired
33. Child Assessment Used	Type of child assessment(s) the program uses.	All alphanumeric characters allowed	Desired
34. Environmental Features	Environmental features of the program, such no pets, fenced-in play area, handicap accessible, and separated play areas.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=No pets 2=Fenced-in play area 3=Handicap accessible 4=Separated play areas 5=Smoke-free environment	Needed
35. Meal Options	Types of meals available to children.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=Breakfast 2=Lunch 3=Dinner 4=Morning snack 5=Afternoon snack 6=Child and Adult Care Food Program	Needed
36. Accreditation	National accreditation that the program has achieved.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=National Association for the Education of Young Children 2=National Association for Family Child Care 3=Council on Accreditation 4=American Camp Association 5=National Early Childhood Program Accreditation 6=National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs 7=Association for Christian Schools International 8=American Montessori Society 9=Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment	Needed

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
		10=Association Montessori International/USA 11=Association of Waldorf Schools of North America 12=Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities: Child and Youth Services Standards 13=Green Apple Accreditation Services 14=International Christian Accrediting 15= Council on Accreditation-After School Programs 16=Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation 17=National Council for Private School Accreditation 18=Montessori School Accreditation Commission 19=Southern Association of Colleges and Schools 20=Other Type of National Accreditation	
37. Training and Experience to Support Special Needs	Types of training and experience that program staff have regarding accommodating children with special needs.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=Developmental delay 2=Emotional or behavioral 3=Hearing impairment 4=Visual impairment 5=Physical challenges 6=Special health needs 7=Speech impairment	Needed
38. Transportation Options	Types of transportation options available to children in care.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=On school transportation route 2=Near public transportation 3=Program transportation provided	Needed

Table 4. Overview of Data Elements: Information on Operating Schedules

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
39. Yearly Schedule	The portion of the year during which the program provides care for children.	Select one of the following values: 1=Full year 2=School year 3=Summer only	Needed
40. Daily Opening Time – Sunday	The earliest time of day (local time) that the child care facility opens across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
41. Daily Opening Time – Monday	The earliest time of day (local time) that the child care facility opens across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
42. Daily Opening Time – Tuesday	The earliest time of day (local time) that the child care facility opens across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
43. Daily Opening Time – Wednesday	The earliest time of day (local time) that the child care facility opens across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
44. Daily Opening Time – Thursday	The earliest time of day (local time) that the child care facility opens across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
45. Daily Opening Time – Friday	The earliest time of day (local time) that the child care facility opens across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
46. Daily Opening Time – Saturday	The earliest time of day (local time) that the child care facility opens across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
47. Daily Closing Time – Sunday	The latest time of day (local time) that the child care facility closes across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
48. Daily Closing Time – Monday	The latest time of day (local time) that the child care facility closes across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
49. Daily Closing Time – Tuesday	The latest time of day (local time) that the child care facility closes across all shifts.	Numeric	Required

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
50. Daily Closing Time – Wednesday	The latest time of day (local time) that the child care facility closes across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
51. Daily Closing Time – Thursday	The latest time of day (local time) that the child care facility closes across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
52. Daily Closing Time – Friday	The latest time of day (local time) that the child care facility closes across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
53. Daily Closing Time – Saturday	The latest time of day (local time) that the child care facility closes across all shifts.	Numeric	Required
54. Special Schedules	Specific schedules that the program can accommodate.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=Evening 2=Overnight 3=Weekends 4=Holidays 5=Sick care 6=Drop-in care	Needed

Table 5. Overview of Data Elements: Information on Tuition and Fees

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
55. Tuition – Infant Hourly	Highest hourly tuition charged for infants before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
56. Tuition – Infant – Daily	Highest daily tuition charged for infants before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
57. Tuition – Infant – Weekly	Highest weekly tuition charged for infants before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
58. Tuition – Infant – Monthly	Highest monthly tuition charged for infants before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
59. Tuition – Toddler – Hourly	Highest hourly tuition charged for toddlers before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
60. Tuition – Toddler – Daily	Highest daily tuition charged for toddlers before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
61. Tuition – Toddler – Weekly	Highest weekly tuition charged for toddlers before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
62. Tuition – Toddler – Monthly	Highest monthly tuition charged for toddlers before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
63. Tuition – Preschool – Hourly	Highest hourly tuition charged for preschoolers before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
64. Tuition – Preschool – Daily	Highest daily tuition charged for preschoolers before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
65. Tuition – Preschool – Weekly	Highest weekly tuition charged for preschoolers before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
66. Tuition – Preschool – Monthly	Highest monthly tuition charged for preschoolers before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
67. Tuition – School Age – Hourly	Highest hourly tuition charged for school-age children before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed

Data Element Number and Name	Definition	Data Element Values	Priority Level
68. Tuition – School Age – Daily	Highest daily tuition charged for school-age children before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
69. Tuition – School Age – Weekly	Highest weekly tuition charged for school-age children before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
70. Tuition – School Age – Monthly	Highest monthly tuition charged for school-age children before any discounts or subsidies are applied.	Numeric	Needed
71. Discounts Available	Discounts available to parents (e.g., sibling discounts, employee discounts).	Select one or more of the following values: 1=Discount provided for siblings 2=Discounts provided for employees 3=Discounts provided on a sliding scale 4=Discounts provided for parents in military service	Needed
72. Additional Deposits and Fees	Additional deposits and fees that parents must pay.	Select one or more of the following values: 1=Registration fee 2=Late fee 3=Extended care fee 4=Waitlist fee 5=Materials fee 6=Activities fee	Needed

This document was developed with funds from Contract # HHSP233201500071I, Order # HHSP23337006T, for the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

Childcare.gov
askchildcaregov@icf.com
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ>